

Foes of Briand Oppose Him as Arms Envoy

**Premier's Position Believed
More Precarious Than at
Any Time Since He Or-
ganized Present Cabinet**

Delegates Still Unnamed

**Possible Alliance of Cle-
menceau and Poincare Is
Chief Peril to Ministry**

By Wilbur Forrest

Special Dispatch to The Tribune
Copyright, 1921, New York Tribune Inc.
PARIS, Sept. 22.—Information avail-
able to-day indicated that circum-
stances are threatening to weigh heav-
ily against the presence of Premier
Briand in Washington as head of the
French delegation to the Conference
on the Limitation of Armament.

Asked to deliver the address of the
corps of experts and others who will
accompany the delegates has been
named, officials of the Foreign Office
said, the date of the conference was
so far in advance that nothing had
been officially decided.

Albert Sarraut, Minister of Colonies,
who has been named by the French
press as the delegate, is expected to
leave Paris to-night for an extended tour
of the French African possessions, saying
he was not willing to discuss his pro-
posed voyage to America before Octo-
ber 25, when he is expected to return.

Come to see me October 25," said
M. Sarraut to the Tribune correspondent.
"We will talk about it then."

Embassy Given No Hint

The Tribune correspondent learned
that, aside from Briand's personal as-
surance to the French government, some
time ago that he intended to head the
French delegation, the American Em-
bassy was not advised to-day of any
other plans and did not even officially
notified whether the delegation
had yet been selected.

Those in close touch with the politi-
cal situation are convinced that Briand
would be considerably embarrassed in
the matter of announcing a definite
program and the personnel of the
French delegation until the political
atmosphere is clearer. At best this
situation is a very delicate one.

Political circles are buzzing with con-
versation, not only about the present
status of the Briand government but
the inevitable storm which will break
when the full facts of the situation
in the Chamber, which is scheduled to
re-open October 18, eight days before
the Briand mission is expected to sail
from Brest for New York.

Briand's Position Precarious

The political critics of the Briand
Mission are of the opinion that he is
more numerous than they were a month
ago, and the friends of the Premier do
not deny the position of the Cabinet
at this moment is so precarious that a
majority in the Chamber, which is
scheduled to meet on October 18, may
well have proved disastrous.

Which, however, can happen between
now and one month hence, and hardened
and experienced politicians such as the
Premier may find some of the most
often the pointed interpellations on
matters of foreign policy and financial
and sanction questions.

While Briand undoubtedly will an-
nounce a definite program in the near
brief time, it was clear to-day that
his presence in Washington November
11 hangs entirely on the outcome of the
debate in the Chamber, which can either
result in the quick overthrow of the
Premier or the continued struggle of
the government against anti-Briand
elements which are now stronger than
ever in the Chamber.

It was forecasted that the Premier
would probably find it extremely diffi-
cult to take his hand off the political helm
or to intrust the fate of his govern-
ment to the hands of others while
absent.

Urged to Abandon Trip

In view of this eventuality it is re-
ported that at least three ministers,
Barthou, Maginot and Bonnevay, are
urging the Premier to abandon his plan
to go to Washington.

The political situation has been fur-
ther complicated the last few days by
the reports that Clemenceau is prepar-
ing to enter the political arena.
Whether the "Tiger" is active or in-
active, he is one of the bitterest
opponents of Briand, and his fol-
lowing is most formidable.

On the other side, also working along
the same lines, is the Poincare group
in the Chamber. While these two fac-
tors have not joined forces, the dan-
ger to the ministry lies in the danger
of the issue of a vote of confidence.

The Foreign Office has confirmed the
report that the cruiser Edgarquira is
now on route in Southern waters
toward Brest, although it declined to
say whether it was ordered specially
to carry the French delegation to
America.

Likewise, it is unofficially reported
here that Jules Jusserand, French Am-
bassador to America, who, with Berthe-
lot, general secretary of the Foreign
Office, has been mentioned as making
up France's delegation, together with
Briand and Sarraut, is now preparing
the details of the voyage, and Captain
Rigal, naval attaché at the Washing-
ton Embassy, is now in France assigned
to aid the ambassador.

Although there is not the slightest
doubt that France will be strongly
represented in Washington when the
conference begins, it is no secret that
politicians making the situation one of
extreme embarrassment, and the dan-
ger in the reluctance of the Foreign
Office to put an official stamp on
any of its unofficial versions of the
details of the mission.

**First Japanese Reporter
Arrives for Conference**

From The Tribune's Washington Bureau
WASHINGTON, Sept. 22.—Seigo
Wainabe, special correspondent for
the Tokyo Asahi, arrived here to-day,
and in a half hour, under the aus-
pices of the White House, he was
interviewed by the Japanese and
other persons for their views on the
coming Conference on the Limitation of
Armament.

Wainabe is the first Japanese
newspaper man to arrive for the
conference. He speaks excellent Eng-
lish and is well informed on the politi-
cal situation.

Wainabe's first venture after an in-
terview from an American legislator
was directed at Senator Willis, of Ohio.
The two conversed for several minutes.
Wainabe said that the Morning Star
in Japan concerning the length of the con-
ference place it anywhere from four to
six months.

**Proprietor of Mountain
Hotel Ends Life by Hanging**

MONTICELLO, N. Y., Sept. 22.—Ab-
raham Dann, forty-five years old, for-
merly of New York City, and manager
of the Shawang Lodge, at High View,
committed suicide by hanging to-day.
Attendants of the hotel, searching for
Mr. Dann, finally found him hanging
from one of the cross beams in the
dinner hall of the lodge.

Mr. Dann, who formerly was one of
the proprietors of the Morning Star
Hotel at Hurleyville, is survived by his
wife and several children. No reason
could be assigned for his act.

Harding Lets Callers Take His Finger Prints

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22.—
President Harding submitted to
having his finger prints made to-
day during a call at the White
House by delegates to the annual
convention here of the Interna-
tional Association for Identification.

The delegates, including many
internationally known detectives
and criminologists, explained
briefly to the President the meth-
ods and advantages of the finger-
print identification and their in-
vitation to have his "print" made
was accepted.

Germans Promised Fair Deal by Czecho-Slovakia

PRESBURG, Czecho-Slovakia, Sept.
22.—President T. G. Masaryk of
Czecho-Slovakia, in a public state-
ment on the German minority ques-
tion, yesterday said that peace treaties
were imperfect like all the works of man.

He believed it possible to create eth-
nographic frontiers of all the states
of Europe, but not of one country
alone. The Germans formed an in-
tegral part in the historical develop-
ment of Bohemia. He thought they
did not desire to change their frontiers
because that would leave them a
weaker minority. The same applied to
the Magyars.

The Germans, President Masaryk
continued, should reconcile themselves
to the fact that Czecho-Slovakia was
definitely constituted, but he promised
to see that the board of justice and
humanity guided the authorities.

The German press in Prague greets
the statement as foreshadowing a set-
tlement of the principal obstacles hin-
dering a Czecho-German constructive
policy.

Lord Named Chancellor Of State Regents' Board

Veteran Newspaper Man Suc-
ceeds Dr. Vanderveer in Edu-
cational System Position

ALBANY, Sept. 22.—Chester S. Lord,
of Binghamton, N. Y., party-one of the
staff of "The Sun," in New York, to-
day was elected chancellor of the State
Board of Regents, which controls the
state educational system. He has been
a member of the board since 1897, and
served for an interval of five years from
1904 to 1909. He succeeds Dr. Albert
Vanderveer, of Albany, who resigned
the chancellorship, but will remain on
the board as a member.

Mr. Lord is a widely known news-
paper man, having been managing edi-
tor of "The Sun" for thirty-two years,
during the period of its growth from a
four-page folder to its present size.
Since his retirement, in 1913, he has
devoted himself to educational work.

Woman, Believed Pauper, Had \$100,000 in Dress

Search of Effects of "French
Sal" Diverted Burial From
Potter's Field

CHICAGO, Sept. 22.—"French Sal," a
mysterious resident of the Harrison
Street police district, was found dead
two days ago in a gas-filled room and
her remains had been buried in Potter's
field at a pauper's expense.

A final search of her effects, how-
ever, brought forth \$100,000 in stocks,
bonds and paper money of large de-
nomination, sewed in the lining of a
shabby old dress. As a result, she was
buried to-day in Arlington Cemetery.
Five students of an anatomical school
acted as pall bearers and Deputy Cor-
oner Davis, of the Cook County Morgue,
delivered a funeral oration.

No one can be found who knows the
old woman's real name. The property
is being held by the coroner in the
hope that as he can be found.

Strike Halts Austrian Roads

Thousands Marooned in Vienna
by Walk-Out Over Wages

VIENNA, Sept. 22.—Railroad traffic
throughout Austria has been com-
pletely halted by a strike and thou-
sands of visitors in this city from all
parts of Europe are marooned here.
The walk-out was called because of
the objections of the workmen to the
government's graduated increase in
their September allowances. They re-
sented a uniform amount regardless
of their grades.

The failure of the Council of Am-
bassadors to act on the Burgenland
situation has caused sensational rumors
from that territory along the Hungarian
border have caused newspapers here
to speculate on the downfall of the
Austrian government, even before the
date for the proposed reorganization
of the ministry. The government has
been unable for three days to com-
municate with its representative at
Odenburg, with the Allied Military
Commission there.

Minor Chiefs' Fight Rages

Lewis To-day Will Make His
Anti-Farrington Address

INDIANAPOLIS, Sept. 22.—Led by
Frank Farrington, president of the
Illinois Coal Miners, the demonstra-
tion element in the convention of the
United Mine Workers of America
fought to-day for the convention's re-
jection of a recommendation of John
L. Lewis, international president, to
require the Illinois officials to give an
itemized accounting for \$27,000 spent
in an unauthorized strike two years
ago.

The fight will be resumed to-morrow.
Debate showed a division among the
Illinois delegates, some opposing Mr.
Farrington's stand.

Mr. Lewis, it was announced, will
speak to-morrow.

A Widow 3 Years, She Finds

SOMERVILLE, N. J., Sept. 22.—Mrs.
William Reis learned to-day that al-
though she had been paying the premi-
um on her husband's insurance policy
regularly he died three years ago at
the State Prison in Trenton.

She has had to support herself and
three children and had not had an op-
portunity of visiting her husband since
1918. When she inquired for him to-
day she was informed at first that he
never had been an inmate of the in-
stitution. When she identified him,
however, as a man who was enrolled
during a clerical error as "William
Reis," it was found that he had died
in 1918. He was admitted to the hos-
pital July 14, 1915.

Ruins of Oppau Equal Verdun; 1,100 Are Dead

**4,000 Injured in Hospitals
or Debris of German
Town Blown Away in
Secret Tests of New Gas**

War Casualties Exceeded

**French Troops, in Charge,
Do Heroic Rescue Work;
Loss Is 150 Million Marks**

MANHEIM, Germany, Sept. 22 (By
The Associated Press).—Desolation and
runs alone remain of what was once
the flourishing town of Oppau. The
town had 6,500 residents, of which a
majority of the men engaged in the
chemical works were killed or wounded.

According to latest estimates, 1,100
were killed and 4,000 injured in the
explosion yesterday, which destroyed
the Badische Anilin Company's plant.

The blast caused a greater number
of casualties in the Mannheim-Lud-
wigshafen district than the four years
of the war. The desolation around
Oppau equals anything seen at Verdun
or in Flanders over a similar area.
Hundreds of persons are digging in the
ruins for the bodies of relatives or
friends, nearly a thousand of which
have been recovered thus far.

Cries Still Heard in Debris

Thirty-six hours after the explosion,
from the gaping, tunnel-like hole where
the Badische Works formerly stood,
there are still to be heard moaning and
cries of the wounded, while the soldiers
search for possible survivors.

Twenty-five hundred of the injured are reported
to have passed through the hospitals
of the surrounding cities.

The vast crater is slowly filling with
water, and it may become a lake where
many victims found a grave there. All
mutilated but still living animals
crawling amidst the twisted girders
and blocks of concrete are being put
out of their misery. These find relief
workers have not yet been able to
discard their gas masks.

The 32d Army Corps of the French
army is in complete charge of the area,
and every available French and medi-
cal officer had arrived early this morn-
ing to co-operate with the German phy-
sicians and surgeons. The French and
German Red Cross are co-operating and
a big German Red Cross hospital, with
large quantities of medical supplies.
The German officials thanked General
Degoutte for the prompt manner in
which the French army came to the
assistance of the victims.

French Staff in Charge

The French High Commissioner on
the Rhine, M. Tirard, and his entire
staff took charge of the relief work.
The members of his staff were sent to
the surrounding towns to enlist the
majority of the people in the relief plan,
in which the labor unions are uniting.
Several of the funds have already as-
sumed large proportions.

From Frankenthal, four miles away,
there was a steady exodus of the pop-
ulation, in which bandaged heads and
arms in slings were conspicuous. The
village of Edigheim was badly wrecked,
and it has not yet been possible to
rescue some of the victims who are
known to be under the debris.

At Oppau whole families were com-
pletely wiped out. About 800 bodies
have already been placed in the ad-
joining cemetery awaiting burial. The
Mannheim hospitals are crowded with
injured, more than 400 persons having
suffered from the explosion in this city.

Several French soldiers were killed
and many wounded when the force of
the Oppau explosion wrecked the
French barracks at Eisenheim. A train
which had just left that station was
blown off the tracks, plowing through
the wooden sheds where French sol-
diers of occupation were quartered.

Moroccan Hero Saves Eleven

General Degoutte personally decora-
ted a Moroccan soldier who rescued
eleven wounded from the wreckage,
the African being severely burned
about the hands and neck.

The experts who are inquiring into
the cause said that the explosion
probably occurred in the course of
tests of the compression of a new gas,
the properties of which were insuffi-
ciently known.

Primarily it is reported, the disas-
ter was caused by the explosion of
fifteen tons of ammonium sulphate in
the preparation of a new gas, in which
the pressure of 300 atmospheres and
a temperature of between 600 and 700
degrees centigrade were needed.

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 22 (By The As-
sociated Press).—The total damage
from the explosion in the Badische
Anilin Company's chemical plant at
Oppau yesterday is estimated at 150,-
000,000 marks, according to Berlin ad-
vices received here to-day.

Earthquake Needle Registers

DARMSTADT, Germany, Sept. 22.—
Darmstadt, from at Oppau, was the
great explosion and many persons
were injured. For a time the
residents of the city believed that the
disaster had occurred in this place.

STUTTGART, Germany, Sept. 22.—
The seismographs in the observatory
here registered two distinct shocks,
as if of earthquake. The tracings showed
the great violence of the explosion,
Stuttgart being ninety-four miles from
the scene. The shocks occurred within
half a second of each other.

WORMS, Germany, Sept. 22.—Great
damage was caused here by the Oppau
explosion, which blew off roofs of
houses and shattered windows. The
Burgomaster has ordered all schools
closed.

Oppau Explosion Laid to Broken Ammonia Tower

Major Sill, Formerly of U. S.
Chemical Warfare Staff, Ac-
counts for German Disaster

The bursting of one of the heavy
steel towers in which nitrogen and
ammonia, nitrate, nitric acid and fer-
tilizers, under the Haber process, was
assigned as the probable cause of
Wednesday's explosion in the Badische
Anilin Company's plant at Oppau,
Germany, by Major T. W. Sill, formerly
of the Chemical Warfare Division
of the Army and a member of the Allied
commission sent into Germany in 1919
to look into the progress of German in-
dustries during the war.

Major Sill based his belief on his
knowledge of chemicals, coupled with
the fact that a previous explosion hap-
pened at the plant in September, 1917,
resulting in more than one hundred
casualties.

Under the Haber process nitrogen and
hydrogen are subjected to a pressure
of about two hundred atmospheres in
specially built towers. These towers
about forty feet long and six inches
thick, with an interior circumference of
about thirty inches.

Inside the towers are specially con-

structed tubes about one-quarter of an
inch thick, constructed of nickel
chrome steel, through which the gases
are conducted. An agreed condition
exists through the fact that the
process is carried on under more than
500 degrees of heat.

In the explosion of 1917 residents a
half mile away and in line of the blast
were swept off a bridge and killed.

To assure operators a degree of
safety control valves are in the build-
ing about 100 yards from the structures
used for the towers.

The Oppau works represented the
chemical supply plant of the Badische
Company's dye works at Ludwigs-
hafen, the largest in the world. The ham-
let of Oppau sprang up with the con-
struction of this plant during the war.
Some preliminary work was done on
the plant in 1913, but the war brought
governmental assistance and quick-
ened operation.

The works were built at a cost of
\$5,000,000, and were considered by the
owners to be still in an experimental
stage, this despite the fact that a
production capacity of 100,000 tons of
ammonia a year had been reached in
February, 1919. At that time the
works employed 3,000 men and 250 chem-
ists, one-half of whom were employed
in research departments. There were
about 100 buildings covering about 200
acres.

Oppau is in the heart of the French
zone of occupation, and the French mil-
itary exercises close surveillance over
the great chemical plant, partly to pre-
vent the manufacture and shipment of
ammunitions into the interior of Ger-
many.

Major Sill expressed a belief that the
loss of this plant will present only a
temporary obstacle to the Germans in
their fight for world supremacy in the
dye trade.

Aid Cabled to Oppau By Relief Groups Here

The Central Relief Committee in New
York, an association of 156 German-
American relief societies, yesterday
cabled its food warehouse in Hamburg
to place 600,000 marks in cash and
1,000,000 marks in groceries at the dis-
posal of the authorities at Ludwig-
shafen which are aiding the persons
affected by the Badische Anilin factory
explosion Wednesday at Oppau.

Rome Shivers in Cloudburst Hail Six Inches Deep Left Flooded Streets

ROME, Sept. 22 (By The Associated
Press).—From depressing heat Rome
suddenly has been transformed into a
city of shivering cold. A cloudburst
occurred, accompanied by a storm of
hail, which covered the streets in some
places six inches deep. The hailstones
lay for hours in various parts of the
city, or were washed away by torrents
descending the seven hills. The streets
turned into veritable rivers, and col-
lars and the first floors of buildings
were flooded. Chairs and tables from
cafes on the high ground were swept
down into the heart of the city, where
crowds waded knee-deep.

The weight of the hail caused the
roof of the picturesque old sixteen
century hospital, De Santo Spirito, to
collapse, greatly alarming the patients.
The Italian cellars were among those
flooded.

Stools to Save Baby Veteran's Reason for Taking Bicycles Wins Probation

MOUNT VERNON, N. Y., Sept. 22.—
Judge George C. Appell, in Special Ses-
sions to-day, placed Lionel Fowler,
twenty-one years old, a World War
veteran, who lived with his wife and baby
at 1235 Park Avenue, New York City,
on probation when he confessed he
stole five bicycles.

After telling of unsuccessful at-
tempts to obtain work, Fowler said that
his baby became ill, and in desperation,
he came to Mount Vernon and within
a brief period took the bicycles.

Detectives said they learned Fowler
served with distinction in the 165th
Infantry. Judge Appell turned over
the case to a New York probation of-
ficer.

Value of Surrendered Ships Set at 745 Million Marks

PARIS, Sept. 22.—The value of the
ships surrendered by Germany is fixed
at 745,000,000 gold marks, in an official
communication issued to-day by the
Reparations Commission.

These vessels were turned over to
the Allies in execution of Annex 3, Part
8, of the Versailles Treaty, which calls
for replacement, ton for ton and class
for class, of all merchant ships and
fishing boats lost or damaged during
the war.

All the most prominent leaders at
Goerlitz urged the adoption of the
coalition program, especially Eduard
Bernstein, former Chancellor Herman
Mueller, Philipp Scheidemann and Her-
mann Moellner. That some sort of
understanding already exists between
the People's party and the Socialist
leaders on the reconstruction of the
present government is evidenced in
the statement being made almost daily
by Scheidemann that his followers are
seeking a basis of agreement with the
Socialists in order to widen the gov-
ernment's basis and thus bring a

Socialists Vote For Coalition to Save Germany

**Government Reconstruction
to Take In All Parties
Except Extreme Right
and Left Is Proposed**

To Crush Reactionaries

**Erzberger Assassination Has
Had the Effect of Driving
the Republicans Together**

By Joseph Shaplen

By Wireless to The Tribune
Copyright, 1921, New York Tribune Inc.
BERLIN, Sept. 22.—The reconstruc-
tion of the German government to take
in all the middle parties, from the
Majority Socialists to the German
People's party, thus giving the country
a coalition Cabinet, is virtually as-
sured by the adoption of a resolution
by the Majority Socialists, meeting at
Goerlitz, in favor of entering a coalition.

The Majority Socialist press pre-
sents this move as the only way of
preventing civil war in Germany arising
out of the immeasurably acute
economic and financial situation. The
vote on the resolution was 67 to 29.

This beginning to be known as "the
government of the middle" looks to
the linking up of all the parties except
the Reds and the extreme reaction-
aries. Heretofore the Majority Social-
ists have refused to take any part in
a ministry in which the German Peo-
ple's party was represented. The vote
at Goerlitz, however, alters this stand
and makes possible the association of
these two parties under certain con-
ditions.

Wirth May Retire

Speculation on the personnel of the
Cabinet that will result from the ex-
pected change in the government is
reports, which, however, must be taken
with reservation. Dr. Gustav Strese-
mann, People's party leader, is to be-
come Foreign Minister in place of Dr.
Friedrich Rosen, who will be sent to
be taken by Paul Loebe, the Social-
ist president of the Reichstag. Reports
in some circles are that Chancellor
Wirth is to retire and that his place is
to be taken by Paul Loebe, the Social-
ist president of the Reichstag.

The government, it is learned, is particu-
larly anxious to bring Stresemann and
Walther Rathenau together in the
Cabinet.

The possibility of such a coalition
was regarded as slight prior to the
assassination of Matthias Erzberger,
the Centrist leader, but that crime has
been taken by Paul Loebe, the Social-
ist president of the Reichstag, and the
Republican forces together, and the Social
Democrats are seeking ways and means
for the co-operation of all elements
which are willing to vow allegiance to
the new German constitution and stand
behind the republic.

The resolution passed by the Social-
ists laid down two cardinal stipula-
tions for the entrance of the Socialists
into the larger political coalition:
namely, that the People's party decide
definitely its allegiance to the republic
and that the government under-
take a wide democratization of the
present government's personnel by the
elimination of reactionary judges, of-
ficials and employees.

Nationalists Fight Coalition

The Nationalists have begun a cam-
paign in their newspapers to disrupt
the plans for a coalition. The Com-
munist press and the proposals as a
"union of the Socialists with Hugo
Stinnes." The Independent Socialists,
who also are left out, predict that the
plan will fail.

The "Kreuzzeitung," the "Deutsche
Tagesszeitung" and the rest of the Na-
tionalist organs are beside themselves
with rage over the decision of the So-
cialists, fearing the obviously com-
plete political isolation which such a
coalition would mean to the whole
Junker class.

All the most prominent leaders at
Goerlitz urged the adoption of the
coalition program, especially Eduard
Bernstein, former Chancellor Herman
Mueller, Philipp Scheidemann and Her-
mann Moellner. That some sort of
understanding already exists between
the People's party and the Socialist
leaders on the reconstruction of the
present government is evidenced in
the statement being made almost daily
by Scheidemann that his followers are
seeking a basis of agreement with the
Socialists in order to widen the gov-
ernment's basis and thus bring a

greater measure of stability to German
political life.

The attitude of the German People's
Party toward the coalition will be de-
cided at a party convention on October
22. The leaders of that party are now
holding a series of informal confer-
ences at Nuremberg, where the coal-
ition proposition is under consideration.
Significant, so far as the party's attitude
is concerned, is the comment of the
leading organ, the "Deutsche Allge-
meine Zeitung," which refers to the
Socialist decision at Goerlitz as "a
wise stand in the direction of a prac-
tical policy."

Only a short while ago Scheidemann,
in a speech at Cassel, argued strongly
against coalition with the People's
party. At Goerlitz Scheidemann
changed his tune.

To Strengthen Wirth Government

The entrance of the People's party
into the Chancellor Wirth's government
and the co-operation of the Socialists
and the People's party in the same
Cabinet is expected to make the Wirth
government the strongest Germany
has had since the great debacle which
was accompanied by the downfall of
the Hohenzollerns and will prove a
great blow to the extreme nationalists,
behind whom stand Ludendorff and his
military clique.

There are some people in Germany
who believe that the reactionaries are
preparing a new coup d'etat, in the
belief that it is a case of now or never
for them. Indications are accumulat-
ing, however, that it is a case of
"neither now nor ever" for the ex-
tremists.